THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) The value of production of SSPL in 1994-95 was Rs. 1.79 crores as against the target of Rs. 15.45 crores. In 1996-97, the value of production was Rs. 8.84 crores (provisional subject to audit), as against the revival plan target of Rs. 24.67 crores. The performance in 1996-97 was significantly better but comparison with the performance of 1994-95 is not relevant.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The question of release of non-plan assistance to SSPL is under consideration of the Government. The Indian Overseas Bank (IOB), the banker of SSPL, has been insisting on co-lateral security in the shape of charge on the fixed assets of SSPL before advancing further working capital support. This has not yet been agreed to. The Ministry has taken up with the IOB for a resolution of the matter.

Indian Wildlife Facing Serious Threat of Extinction

1118. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the World Bank study India is among the top nations where various species and wildlife is facing a serious threat of extinction;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether any study has been made by Government in this regard and if so, what is the outcome thereof; and

(d) The protective measures contemplated by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) (a) This Ministry has not received any such report from the World Bank.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Although no study has been undertaken specifically on the Indian Wildlife species facing a serious threat of extinction, there have been studies on various wildlife species, based on which conservation measures are planned and implemented through the State Govts.

(d) The steps taken by the Government for the conservation of wildlife include:

i) Hunting of wild animals included in Schedules I to IV of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, has been banned by law.

ii) Special measures for protection and conservation of tiger, elephants and rhinos and their habitat are being implemented.

iii) A network of 447 wildlife sanctuaries and 84 National Parks covering 1,50,000 sq. km. has been set up for conservation of wild flora and fauna., Financial assistance is provided by the central Government for development of national parks and sanctuaries on request from the State Governments.

iv) Raids are carried out by the wildlife authorities, whenever information of illegal trading in wildlife animals reaches them.

v) International Trade in endangered Species of animals and articles made there of is regulated under the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

vi) Regional and Sub-regional offices of Wildlife Preservation have been set-up mostly at the main export centres of the country to prevent smuggling of wildlife products.

vii) Interdepartmental coordination has been enhanced with other enforcement organisations like Police, BSF, Customs, ITBP, Coast Guards etc. Training programme on wildlife enforcement and implementation were also conducted for all these organisations at New Delhi and Dehradun during, 1995 & 1996.